

## Message Text

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43

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: A VISIT BY MURRAY: A MOVE TOWARD DETENTE WITH  
THE AFL-CIO?

REFTEL: LONDON 19485

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SUMMARY - ALLEN HARGREAVES, HEAD OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT. HAS INFORMED US THAT LEN MURRAY. GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH TUC, EXPECTS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES DURING THE LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH WITH MORE PRECISE DATES PENDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING WITH AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE NEANY. END SUMMARY

1. THE PROJECTED VISIT WILL BE UNDER THE TECHNICAL SPONSORSHIP OF THE UK'S EXCHANGE AND CULTURAL PROGRAM, AND WILL INCLUDE SEVERAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN NEW YORK. WASHINGTON AND POSSIBLY CAMBRIDGE (HARVARD). IT IS BEING ARRANGED AT A MOMENT WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AFL-CIO AND THE TUC ARE AT A VERY LOW POINT INDEED -- MAINLY BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT CONCEPTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO TRADE UNION CENTERS ON THEIR APPROACH TO COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS IN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE.

2. MURRAY'S VISIT, MOREOVER, IS BEING PLANNED NOW DESPITE, OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF, THE FACT IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO THE TUC THAT THE AFL-CIO IS NOT ISSUING AN INVITATION TO THE TUC TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN FLORIDA IN FEBRUARY AS IT HAS IN RECENT YEARS. FCO OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR MATTERS CONSIDER THE MURRAY VISIT AS "TIMELY AND FORTUITOUS" IN THE LIGHT OF THE RELATIVELY POOR RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THESE TWO POWERFUL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS.

3. IF A MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED WITH MEANY. ONE OF THE TOPICS HE IS LIKELY TO TAKE UP WITH THE AFL-CIO PRESIDENT IS THE QUESTION OF U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO. MURRAY AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE TUC, SUCH AS LORD ALLEN, WERE EMBARRASSED BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER TUC CHAIRMAN CYRIL PLANT'S INTEMPERATE AND TOTALLY IRRELEVANT ATTACK ON MEANY OVER THE ILO ISSUE AT THE MEXICO ICFTU CONFERENCE. NONETHELESS, THEY ARE DEEPLY WORRIED THAT THE U.S. DECLARATION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO WILL IN FACT BE CARRIED OUT. AND THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THE AFL-CIO IS A MAJOR INSPIRATION FOR THE U.S. ACTION. MURRAY MAY OFFER THE AFL-CIO COOPERATION IN MEETING THE LATTER'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCERN ON SPECIFIC ILO ISSUES. WHAT THE TUC IS PREPARED TO DO, HOWEVER. TO DEAL WITH THE AFL-CIO'S MORE PROFOUND COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE TUC'S APPROACH TO EAST-WEST TRADE UNION DETENTE IS NOT YET APPARENT. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME SIGNS -- STILL VAGUE AND WHICH COULD BE MISLEADING - - THAT THE TUC MAY BE MODERATING THIS POLICY. MOREOVER, VICTORIES BY MODERATES IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT TRADE UNION ELECTIONS (REFTEL) MAY BE STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF THOSE

TUC LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE ALIENATION  
OF THE AFL-CIO BUT WHO HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO ARGUE THE  
ISSUE WITH THEIR PEERS IN RECENT YEARS.

4. ALTHOUGH MURRAY CAN BY NO MEANS DECIDE TUC POLICY  
ALONE AND MOST CERTAINLY NOT WITHOUT THE POWERFUL SUP-  
PORT OR AT LEAST ACQUIESCENCE OF JACK JONES. HE COULD  
BEGIN, AT LEAST. TO DISCUSS REALISTICALLY WITH MEANY IN  
WASHINGTON WAYS AND MEANS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO THE  
OLDEST FRATERNAL TRADE UNION RELATIONSHIP IN THE WORLD.  
IT WOULD BE A FITTING GESTURE IN THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

RICHARDSON

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